

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-06 NEA-07 NSCE-00 /031 W

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P 051501Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6176

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0666

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI E.) SY

SUBJECT: CODEL STEVENSON

REF: STATE 27483

1. APPRECIATE FURTHER GUIDANCE PARA 2 REFTEL RE INTERESTS OF CODEL AND WE ARE REARRANGING GUEST LIST INVITATIONS ACCORDINGLY TO INCLUDE MORE PERSONS ON POLITICAL AND/OR MILITARY SIDE IN INFORMAL SETTING. WE WILL ALSO CONSUL WITH SARG PROTOCOL RE APPOINTMENTS ON MILITARY SIDE, ALTHOUGH SCHEDULE IS GETTING A BIT TIGHT.
2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR NOTE, PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HAS CALLED AMBASSADOR TO REPORT PRESIDENT HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET WITH SENATOR IF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE PERMITS. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH PRESIDENCY UPON ARRIVAL OF SENATOR.
3. OUR TENTATIVE SCHEDULE INCLUDES VISIT TO SYRIAN GOLAN AREA 1030-1330, TUESDAY, FEB 17. WE WILL CABLE FULL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE O/A FEB 10 TO LONDON AND JIDDA FOR RELAY TO CODEL AFTER WE HAVE CONSULTED FURTHER WITH SARG MFA/PROTOCOL OFFICER.
4. FYI: WE WILL ASK DISCREETLY AT MFA IF MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED WORD FROM CLOVIS MAKSOUD RE ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS FOR SENATOR AS NOTED PARA 5 REFTEL. RECOMMEND THAT DEPT BRIEF CODEL ON EXPERIENCE OF CODEL OBEY AND APPOINTMENTS MAKSOUD WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ARRANGED FOR REPS OBEY, KOCH AND EARLY, BUT WHICH NEVER
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MATERIALIZED DESPITE MANY PHONE CALLS BY CODEL DURING STAY IN

DAMASCUS. CODEL OBEY OBVIOUSLY HAD HOPES BUILT UP BY MAKSOUD AND THEREFORE WAS DISAPPOINTED AND FRUSTRATED BY ZERO RESULTS CODEL OBEY ESCORT OFFICER FSO JAMES R. CHEEK CAN PROVIDE DETAILS. MAKSOUD'S OFFER OF HELICOPTER POSSIBILITY DAMASCUS/BEIRUT/DAMASCUS FRANKLY SOUNDS FARFETCHED TO US (AND POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS UNLESS BEIRUT SCENE HAS FURTHER STABILIZED IN MEANTIME) AND WE HOPE SENATOR HAS NOT HAD HIS HOPES BUILT UP. (WE CALL ATTENTION TO FACT REFTTEL WAS NOT SENT TO BEIRUT AND SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER OTHER POSTS BEING ALERTED TO MAKSOUD'S OFFER IN CASE, WITHOUT DIRECT INQUIRY, THEY PICK UP FURTHER INFO ON MAKSOUD'S IDEA SO THAT WE AND BEIRUT MAY BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY.) RE SARG HELICOPTER TO EUPHRATES DAM, WITH ABOUT 140 MPH CAPABILITY, SUCH TRIP WOULD REQUIRE ONE AND THREE-QUARTER HOURS FLIGHT TIME ONE WAY, PLUS PROBABLY REFUELING STOP ON EACH LEG, MEANING TOTAL TRIP OF AROUND SIX HOURS. (DIRECT ONE-WAY FLIGHT IS APPROXIMATELY 240 MILES.) UNCERTAIN WEATHER THIS TIME OF YEAR IS ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED. WE WILL LISTEN TO MFA/PROTOCOL TO SEE IF SARG AMBASSADOR HAS FORWARDED THIS IDEA TO DAMASCUS. IF SYRIANS DO NOT RAISE IT HERE, WE RECOMMEND AGAINST OUR RAISING SUCH A TRIP AT THIS TIME GIVEN TIME CONSTRAINTS. IF SYRIANS DO OFFER SUCH A TRIP, IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE FITED IN DURING HALF DAY LEFT ON MONDAY, FEB 16, WHICH STATE 20495 NOTED CODEL HAD REQUESTED TO BE LEFT OPEN. END FYI. MURPHY

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